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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

In 1963 Liverpool Museum purchased the library and papers of Arthur Dallman (1883-1963), who edited the *North-Western Naturalist* from 1926 to 1956 and taught biology for more than 20 years at Mexborough Grammar School. One of the oldest books in Dallman's library was a copy of John Wilson's *A synopsis of British plants in Mr Ray's Method* (1744) which originally belonged to William Gawthorp of Ripley. The book contains numerous annotations by Gawthorp, dated from 1746 onwards, which gave exact localities for many of the plants he observed around Ripon, Pateley Bridge and Ripley, together with some from further afield (e.g. Settle, Knaresborough).

The manuscript material contained in the book has not, to my knowledge, been previously published or quoted. One of the problems in making use of this information is that the scientific names of the plants are given as pre-Linnaean polynomials or phrase-names. However, the English names are usually sufficient for the identification of the species. A brief examination of the localities of some of the rarer species mentioned by Gawthorp, where these can be placed within a 10 km square with certainty, has shown that some of the records are not given in the *Atlas of the British Flora*. There appears to be a worthwhile research project here for a local naturalist interested in studying changes in plant distribution over the last 140 years.

Ref: *The papers of A. A. Dallman (1883-1963)*, by B. D. Greenwood, publ. in *J. Soc. Bibl. Nat. Hist.* 8(2):176-179, 1977.

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